

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-14

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R 152346Z MAR 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON
INFO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS
AMCONSUL BIEN HOA
AMCONSUL CAN THO
AMCONSUL DANANG
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMCONSUL NHA TRANG
USDEL JEC PARIS
USSAGE NKP
CINCPAC
COGARD
XMT AMEMBASSY SUVA

UNCLAS STATE 052888

COGARD FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, XC, US
SUBJECT: MARCH 15 EA PRESS SUMMARY

INDOCHINA

1. DOS SPOKESMAN SAYS US EMBASSY PP TERMS "UNJUSTIFIED"
THE WP STORY BY BECKER THAT US MIL ATTACHE ONDECKER
HAD ILLEGALLY ADVISED FANK AT KAMPOT; QUOTES EMBASSY
ASSURANCES THAT US MIL PERSONNEL ARE FULLY INSTRUCTED
AS TO LEGAL RESTRICTIONS ON THEIR ACTIVITIES AND ARE
COMPLYING WITH THEM. SPOKESMAN DOES NOT RESPOND TO
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QUESTIONS ABOUT "EXACTLY WHAT WAS BEING DISPUTED",
OR SAY THAT THE BECKER ARTICLE "WAS INACCURATE", BUT
STATES THAT EMBASSY REPLY IS THE "OFFICIAL RESPONSE."
EMBASSY TELEGRAM QUOTES ONDECKER'S FLAT DENIAL OF

CHARGES, SAYS BECKER HAS ONLY "RUDIMENTARY" KNOWLEDGE OF FRENCH AND MAY HAVE MISUNDERSTOOD ONDECKER'S CONVERSATIONS WITH FANK. WP FOREIGN EDITOR LESCAZE SAYS PAPER STANDS BY STORY. "ANGRY REACTION" TO STORY ON CAPITOL HILL AND 41 SENATORS CO-SPONSOR CRANSTON RESOLUTION DEMANDING INVESTIGATION OF ONDECKER'S REPORTED ACTIVITY. SENATOR CHURCH DISCLOSES THAT HE SENT LETTER TO SECSTATE SAYING THAT IF WP STORY IS CORRECT, "THIS IS A DIRECT VIOLATION OF THE LAWS OF THE LAND," AND REMINDING HAK OF HIS PLEDGE OF LAST SEPTEMBER THAT DOS "WOULD NOT SEEK TO CIRCUMVENT LEGAL

OBSTACLES TO THE US MIL PRESENCE IN INDOCHINA." CHURCH ALSO CALLED ON SECDEF "TO ACCOUNT FULLY AND OPENLY FOR THIS APPARENT VIOLATION..." (REUTER WP, EXCERPTED IN SUN).

2. REBELS LAUNCH "MAJOR ATTACKS" ON TWO MEKONG ISLANDS THREE MILES NE OF PP, SEND "THOUSANDS" OF CIVILIANS FLEEING TOWARD CAPITAL. FANK COMMANDER WHO WITHDREW FROM ONE ISLAND RELIEVED OF COMMAND AND DETAINED, FIELD REPORTS SAY (UPI PP).

3. SOUTHERLAND(CSM)FROM KOMPONG THOM QUOTES RECENTLY-ARRIVED REFUGEES THAT LIFE UNDER COMMUNISTS HAS GROWN INCREASINGLY HARSH OVER PAST YEAR; DISSENTERS "SIMPLY DISAPPEARED". COMMUNISTS ORGANIZED LABOR TEAMS TO DIG IRRIGATION CANALS, DEMANDED LONG WORK HOURS, ALLOWED ONLY TWO MEALS A DAY, DISTRIBUTED INADEQUATE RICE AND SALT, BANNED COSMETICS, NEW CLOTHES, GAMBLING AND DRINKING. VILLAGERS OBJECTED MOSTLY TO RESTRICTIONS ON MARRIAGES AND RELIGIOUS CEREMONIES AND MAKING MONKS WORK. REFUGEES DESCRIBE COMMUNIST VIET TROOPS, SEEN EARLIER IN WAR, AS DISCIPLINED AND HAVING TREATED THEM BETTER THAN KHMER REBELS. SOUTHERLAND TELLS OF FRENCH RC PRIEST WHO LIVED 25 YEARS IN KHMER CHRISTIAN VILLAGE, UNCLASSIFIED

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WAS CAPTURED BY NVA IN 1970 AND LATER ESCAPED. PRIEST'S OBSERVATIONS CONFIRM REFUGEE'S STORIES OF "KHMER ROUGE" SAVAGERY IN CONTRAST TO VIET COMMUNIST EFFORTS TO WIN PEOPLE'S SYMPATHY.

4. RLG AND PL TAKE STEP TOWARD NEUTRALIZATION BY TURNING VIENTIANE POLICE DUTIES OVER TO 2000-MAN JOINT POLICE FORCE. PL SPOKESMAN SAYS SIMILAR STEP WILL BE TAKEN AT LUANG PRABANG. PL SEES TWO PROBLEMS REMAINING: WITHDRAWAL FROM BOTH CAPITALS OF RLG TROOPS IN EXCESS OF NUMBER ALLOWED UNDER AGREEMENT, AND EVACUATION OF RLA MIL POSITION THAT "THREATENS" PL FORCES IN LUANG PRABANG. RLG

SPOKESMAN AT NEWS CONFERENCE NOTES ADVANCES IN NEUTRALIZATION WITH "SATISFACTION", SAYS NO FURTHER OBSTACLES TO COALITION FORMATION WILL EXIST IN "A FEW DAYS", ADDS THAT LIST OF MINISTERS FOR VIENTIANE SIDE IS READY (AFP, NYT).

JAPAN

5. CHITRIB'S KIRK, IN FISHING VILLAGE NEAR KURILE ISLANDS, REPORTS ON JAPANESE SEAMEN "POACHING" IN 12-MILE LIMIT STIPULATED BY RUSSIANS AROUND KURILES, CHALLENGING MIGHT OF SOVIET NAVY. GETS STORY FROM JAPANESE CAPTAIN OF BOAT AND THREE-TIME LOSER TO SOVIET FLEET. GOJ SUPPORTS FISHERMEN, INDIRECTLY ENCOURAGES "POACHERS," BY PROVIDING COMPENSATION FOR LOSS OF BOATS, RARELY RETURNED WHEN IMPOUNDED BY RUSSIANS (PHINQ).

6. LAT'S JAMESON (MAR. 14) IN TOKYO REPORTS COMMERCE UNDERSEC. TABOR'S MARCH 13 WARNING TO JAPANESE THAT US MIGHT BE FORCED TO IMPLEMENT NEW EXPORT CONTROLS BECAUSE OF US DOMESTIC REQUIREMENTS, LISTING TWO PRECONDITIONS FOR IMPOSING CONTROLS: NEED AT HOME MUST BE CLEAR AND CONSULTATIONS WITH IMPORTING COUNTRIES BE CONDUCTED IN ADVANCE. TABOR MADE STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO SPECIFIC QUESTIONS ABOUT POSSIBLE US EXPORT RESTRICTIONS ON COKING COAL, LUMBER AND WHEAT. IN RESPONSE TO QUERY ABOUT NEW UNCLASSIFIED

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EXPORT DRIVE BY JAPANESE MANUFACTURERS, TABOR SAID HE EXPECTED NO TROUBLE AS LONG AS JAPAN TRADES "ON PRINCIPLES AND TECHNIQUES USED IN 1973 - GRANTING EQUAL RECIPROCITY FOR EXPORTS FROM THE US TO JAPAN OF CONSUMER AND CAPITAL GOODS AND OF INVESTMENT." US WOULD CONTINUE TO PRESS JAPAN FOR GREATER LIBERALIZATION OF CONTROLS ON IMPORTS OF COMPUTERS AND OTHER HIGH TECHNOLOGY GOODS AND CONTROLS ON FOREIGN INVESTMENT, ACCORDING TABOR, WHO COMPLAINED THAT DESPITE BROAD TARIFF REDUCTIONS, SOME JAPANESE TARIFFS STILL TOO HIGH.

7. COMMERCE'S TABOR WARNS JAPANESE AGAINST COMPETITIVE DEVALUATION OF YEN, ADVISES OF POSSIBLE US SANCTIONS OF YEN NOT SUPPORTED AT 300-1 DOL. NOW 280-1, BUT ANALYSTS EXPECT DROP DUE TO WAGE INCREASES FORCED BY LABOR OFFENSIVE (CHITRIB).

8. US PROFESSOR SAYS OTHER NATIONS SHOULD EMULATE JAPAN'S FIVE-YEAR PROGRAM FOR DEVELOPING COMMERCIALY COMPETITIVE ELECTRIC VEHICLES. NATIONAL R AND D PROGRAM ALLOCATES 14 MIL DOLS THRU 1975 UNDER

DIRECTION OF MITI'S AGENCY OF INDUSTRIAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY. IMPETUS GIVEN TO ELECTRIC VEHICLES BY BAN ON GAS-POWERED VEHICLES AT OSAKA EXPO 70 SITE (CSM).

9. CELANESE CANADA SIGNS PRELIMINARY AGREEMENT WITH MITSUBISHI GAS CHEMICAL TO STUDY FEASIBILITY OF MAJOR METHANOL PLANT IN ALBERTA (WSJ).

10. STREAKING OLD HAT IN JAPAN. "ZERO DIMENSION" HAS LONG SPECIALIZED IN GROUP STREAKS (UP TO SEVERAL HUNDRED PEOPLE). LEADER OF Z-D SAYS "OUR NUDITY IS NOT PHYSICAL, BUT SPIRITUAL AS WELL" (SEIDEN, SUN).

CHINA

11. HSU LI-CHANG, CHINA'S OBSERVER AT CURRENT SESSION OF UN POPULATION COMMISSION IN GENEVA, SAYS CHINA DOES NOT AGREE THAT OVERPOPULATION IN DEVELOPING UNCLASSIFIED

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COUNTRIES IS ROOT CAUSE OF WORLD PROBLEMS; MAINTAINS THAT FEEDING PEOPLE CAN BE SOLVED THROUGH REVOLUTION AND PRODUCTION. BELIEVES FOOLISH TO GIVE PRIORITY TO POPULATION POLICY OVER WINNING POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE. INDICATIONS AT GENEVA ARE THAT CHINA WILL PLAY DEMOGRAPHIC POLITICS AND AGAIN CHAMPION CAUSE OF THIRD WORLD AT POPULATION CONFERENCE. CHINA BLAMES IMPERIALISM FOR MANY WOES OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, CONTRARY TO WESTERN AND EVEN SOVIET DEMOGRAPHERS, WHO EMPHASIZE OVERPOPULATION (WU, SUN).

12. PRAVDA SAID WEDNESDAY THAT PRC HAS CAVED IN TO WEST ON TAIWAN QUESTION AND HAS RECONCILED ITSELF TO CONTINUED TROOP PRESENCE ON ISLAND BY US (UPI, NYDN MARCH 14).

13. NY APPEALS COURT UPHOLDS FIVE-YEAR SENTENCE IMPOSED ON TAIWANESE FOR ATTEMPTING ASSASSINATE CCK IN NY ALMOST FOUR YEARS AGO (REUTER).

14. ANNOUNCEMENT MADE IN TAIPEI THAT BRONZE STATUE OF CONFUCIUS WILL BE SHIPPED TO NYC SHORTLY FOR INSTALLATION IN CITY'S CHINATOWN (AFP, WP MARCH 14).

TIBET

15. LONDON OBSERVER SERVICE FROM SIKKIM SAYS CHINESE IN TIBET STRENGTHENING MOBILITY AND STRIKING POWER OF OCCUPYING ARMY, NOW UP TO 300,000 MEN. MISSILE BASES SET UP WITH 600-2500 MILE

RANGE, BRINGING NEW DELHI AND KABUL UNDER THREAT.
NEW BRIDGE, EIGHT MILES FROM INDIA BORDER, AND

NEW ROAD BRINGS CHINESE FORCES WITHIN FEW HOURS OF
INDIA. IN TIBET, CHINESE MILITARY AND CIVILIANS
PROSPER WHILE TIBETANS STILL UNDERPRIVILEGED. LHASA
ON TIGHT RATIONS, BUT HOUSING, ROADS, SANITATION
IMPROVED. CHINESE OFFICIALS CLAIM RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE
(PHINQ).

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AUSTRALIA

16. IN DISCUSSING UTAH INTERNATIONAL'S PROSPECTS,
WALL STREET ANALYST KALB NOTES CHANGING POLITICAL
CLIMATE FOR FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN AUSTRALIA. LABOR
GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN MORE RESTRICTIVE ATTITUDE
TOWARD NEW FOREIGN INVESTMENTS; LEADERS HAVE INDICATED
THEY WILL SEEK GREATER NATIONAL OWNERSHIP OF ENERGY
SOURCES, THUS FUTURE EARNINGS PROSPECTS CLOUDED
(ELIA, WSJ).

BURMA

17. CSM'S SOUTHERLAND HAS LEARNED THAT SEVERAL
THOUSAND PRC TROOPS HAVE MOVED INTO SHAN STATE OVER
PAST YEAR. BURMA-WATCHERS ARE PUZZLED RE PEKING'S
MOVE, WHICH IS "SOMETHING NEW," EVEN THOUGH PLA
PENETRATION REPORTEDLY HAS BEEN LESS THAN 50 MILES,
ACCORDING TO ONE SOURCE, AND IS IN PART OF BURMA
THAT RANGOON GOVT. "NEVER CONTROLLED ANYWAY." GUB
HAS GIVEN NO PUBLICITY TO INCIDENT, AND IS "APPARENTLY
NOT GREATLY ALARMED."

DIEGO GARCIA

18. WP'S GETLER REPORTS "SHARP NEW CHALLENGE"
ISSUED THURSDAY BY RETIRED REAR ADM. LAROCQUE AND
FORMER DOD SYSTEMS ANALYST RAVENAL AGAINST
PROPOSED EXPANSION OF US NAVAL AND AIR SUPPORT
FACILITIES ON DIEGO GARCIA. APPEARING BEFORE HOUSE
FOREIGN AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE, BOTH SUGGESTED NAVY IS
ATTEMPTING RUSH THROUGH CONGRESS A PROJECT THAT
IS UNNECESSARY MILITARILY AND THAT COULD HAVE SERIOUS
FOREIGN POLICY IMPLICATIONS.

19. AUSSIE LIBERAL PARTY LEADER SNEDDEN WELCOMES US
DECISION TO DEVELOP DIEGO GARCIA BASE, AND CRITICIZES
GOVT. CONTENTION THAT EXPANSION OF STATION WILL
PREVENT ACHIEVEMENT OF INDIAN OCEAN PEACE ZONE (AP, WP).

KOREA
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20. EXIM BANK AUTHORIZES 7.8 MIL DOL LOAN TO YONG-NAM
CHEMICAL CO. FOR PURCHASE OF FERTILIZER PLANT
EQUIPMENT. FIRST NATIONAL CITY BANK (NY) ALSO LOANS
7.8 MILLION. PURCHASES FINANCED BY TWO LOANS WILL
COME FROM US SUPPLIERS (JOC).

EA GENERAL

21. BUTZ SAYS ASIAN TOUR OF JAPAN, KOREA, THAILAND,
HONG KONG, PHILIPPINES, AND TAIWAN WILL BE IN COUNTRIES
NOW PROVIDING BIGGEST MARKET FOR US AGRICULTURE
SALES (JOC).

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

JAPAN

22. WP'S OBERDORFER AND NYT'S HALLORAN REPORT JAPANESE
CONCERN OVER US DELAY IN NAMING AMBASSADOR. AMB.
YASUKAWA TOOK UP QUESTION AT DOS WITH ASSISTANT
SECRETARY INGERSOLL WEEK AGO AND GOJ FM SPOKESMAN
DISCLOSED MARCH 14 THAT HIS GOVT. OFFICIALLY URGED
NIXON ADMIN. MAKE APPOINTMENT SOON. HALLORAN SAYS
UNUSUAL MOVE CONSTITUTES MILD PROTEST SINCE NORMAL
PRACTICE I

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